

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 NIC-01 /072 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 157

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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LIMITED OFFICIAL US USBERLIN 2146

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW

SUBJECT: VON DRENKMANN MEMORIAL SERVICE

REF:

A. USBERLIN 2108

B. USBERLIN 2128

1. SUMMARY: AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JUDGE VON  
DRENKMANN NOVEMBER 21, GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ,  
FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT PRESIDENT BENDA, AND  
FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL, MORE THAN CONINCIDENTALLY  
REPRESENTING THREE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, STRUCK  
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COMMON THEME OF NEED FOR ALL CITIZENS TO ESCHEW

VIOLENCES IF DEMOCRATIC VALUES WERE TO BE PRESERVED.  
20,000 PERSON, FAR LESS THAN NUMBER SPONSORS  
HAD HOPED FOR, ATTENDED DISTURBANCE-FREE OUTDOOR CEREMONY,  
END SUMMARY.

2. ALL MAJOR SPEAKERS AT DRENKMANN MEMORIAL SERVICE  
IN FRONT OF RATHAUS SCHOENEBOURG NOVEMBER 21 APPEALED  
FOR CITIZENRY TO UPHOLD LAW AND CONSTITUTIONAL  
PROCESSES IN ORDER TO AVOID EXTREMIST POLITICAL  
ACTIVITY AND THREAT IT POSED TO CONSTITUTIONAL  
PROCESSES. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ (SPD) DESCRIBED  
DRENKMANN'S MURDER AS "DECLARATION OF WAR" ON RULE OF  
LAW, NOTING THAT CITIZENS OF NO GERMAN STATE UP TO NOW,  
INCLUDING THOSE ON OTHER SIDE OF WALL, HAD THEIR  
FREEDOM SO MUCH GUARANTEED, WERE SO PROTECTED BY LAW,  
AND ENJOYED SO MUCH TOLERANCE AS THOSE OF FRG.  
FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT PRESIDENT BENDA  
(CDU), LIKE OTHER SPEAKERS, CONTRASTED  
RULE OF LAW IN GERMANY TODAY WITH DARK DAYS OF  
NATIONAL SOCIALISM AND PLEADED FOR STRICT ADHERENCE  
TO LEGAL PROCEDURES AS MEANS OF SETTLING DISPUTES.

CLOSEST TO CONTROVERSIAL REMARK WAS BENDA'S STATEMENT THAT  
IN COMPETITIVE DEMOCRACY FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT "LOOKS  
NOT ONLY TO THE STATE BUT TO EACH INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN."  
FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL (FDP) CALLED UPON CITIZENS TO  
RESIST TERRORISM, NOTING THAT LEFT AND RIGHT  
EXTREMIST ACTIVITY HAD LED TO DOWNFALL OF WEIMAR  
REPUBLIC.

3. ALTHOUGH SPONSORS HAD HOPED FOR TURNOUT OF AT  
LEAST 50,000 AND TRADE UNIONS HAD APPEALED TO MEMBERS  
TO ATTEND, ONLY ABOUT 20,000 SPECTATORS WERE ON HAND,  
A PHENOMENON ATTRIBUTED BY OBSERVERS IN PART TO  
FAILURE TO AVERAGE CITIZEN TO EXPERIENCE SENSE OF  
PERSONAL THREAT, AND IN PART TO ESTABLISHED ROLE OF  
TELEVISION, LACKING DURING EARLIER POST-WAR MASS  
DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. POLICE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE DRENKMANN'S  
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MURDERS WILL BE CAUGHT AS RESULT OF LEADS DEVELOPED  
TO DATE (REF B), IN MEANTIME, SEVERAL PROMINENT  
LUTHERAN LEADERS, INCLUDING POLICE VICE PRESIDENT  
PFENNING, HAD ANNOUNCED THEY HAVE SUSPENDED THEIR  
AFFILIATION WITH CHURCH ACTIVITY, BECAUSE OF SUSPICION CAST ON  
INVOLVEMENT OF CLERGY. SOME BERLINERS ARE ALSO CALLING FOR  
BISHOP SCHARF'S RESIGNATION.

5. AT LUNCH NOV 20 FOR AMERICANS VISITING BERLIN  
UNDER AUSPICES OF ATLANTIC BRUECKE, GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ  
EMPHASIZED NON-PARTISAN MOOD OF BERLIN POPULACE AND  
POLITICAL PARTIES IN WAKE OF TRAGEDY WHICH STUCK  
AT CORE OF DEMOCRACY. HE DREW RELATIVELY SOMBRE  
PICTURE NOTING SUCH PROBLEMS AS INABILITY TO DEAL  
WITH PEOPLE WILLING TO COMMIT SLOW SUICIDE THROUGH  
HUNGER STRIKES, AND LACK OF POLICE MANPOWER TO GUARD  
MORE THAN A FEW HIGH OFFICIALS. SCHUETZ'S REMAKKS  
TENDED TO CONFIRM WIDESPREAD REPORTS THAT IF  
BAADER-MEINHOF GANG FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IS  
NOW IN FRG AND BERLIN JAILS, GANG HAS BEEN REPLACED  
BY GROUP OF EXTEMISTS OF NEARLY THE SEME NUMBER  
(20-40 IS FIGURE GENERALLY GIVEN IN PRESS).SELIGMANN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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